

# VINDICATION

Of the Honourable the

## Sheriffs & Recorder

Of L O N D O N,

From those impudent REFLECTIONS

Cast upon them in *Fitzbarris's* LIBEL,

Entituled *His* CONFESSION, &c.

*First.* **W** Hereas he says, That he dies in the Religion which was delivered in the first four General Councils, and that his Faith is contained in the three Creeds commonly called the *Apostles*, *St. Athanasius's*, and the *Nicene*, and that he dies a Member of the Holy Catholick Church, and hopes for mercy through the alone Merits of the Passion of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ; It is here observable, that Papists in general, do pretend to own the Religion, and Faith delivered in the said Councils and Creeds, and yet it is notorious to all Protestants that have read the Controversies between us and them, that their Church holds many Tenets which are positively and evidently contradictory thereunto: and whether by the Catholick Church he means the Roman, the Reader will anon be able to judge. Then whereas he says, He trusts in the Merits of Christ alone for Salvation, he saith no more than what Papists generally do when they come to die, as might be instanced in Cardinal *Bellarmino*, *Gardiner* Bishop of *Winchester*, &c.

In the second place, he endeavours to bring a Scandal upon his Majesty, as if his Majesty had employed him as a Spye and a Trepan; but whether it be not beneath so great a Prince to employ any man in a business of that nature, let all that have the honour of knowing his Majesty, judge. But this is as true as what he immediately after says of the Lord *Howard*, who has since declared upon the Sacrament (which he received on *Sunday* the third instant) That he had no hand directly or indirectly in composing that Libel with which *Fitzbarris* charges him; as you may see at large in that Paper, entituled *His Protestation*, July the third.

As to what he says in the next Paragraph, in reference to the Sheriffs, they know what truth there is in it; and 'tis generally expected that something will ere long be published in their Vindication. In the mean time, I cannot but adore the wonderful Providence of God, in suffering this wretched Liar so far to forget himself as to tell us, that the Sheriffs brought Instructions, which they said came from the Lords and Commons,

mons, who met that day in order to address to the King in my behalf, if I should confirm the Instructions, &c. Whereas all the World knows that the Parliament did not meet till the 21 of *March* last, before which time he was sent to the *Tower*.

I shall here further take notice, that when the Sheriffs did exhort him at the Gallows to discharge his Conscience before he went out of the world, he did not charge either of them with any part of what he here declares against them, his guilt not allowing him the confidence to do it. Besides, it is morally impossible that the Sheriffs should be so shallow as to tempt a Papist to forge things against the Queen, Duke, E. of *Danby*, &c. knowing that Popish Principles teach men to betray Hereticks when there shall be a fit occasion for it. And the like may be said for the Earl of *Shaftsbury* and the Lord *Howard*.

In the next place he charges Sir *George Treby* the Recorder of *London*, as if he were an encourager of Subornation and Perjury; for he tells us, that Sir *George* urges him to say upon his examination that the Duke, the Lords *Bellasis*, *Arundel*, and *Powis*, were at the Consult at *St. James's* about contriving the murder of Sir *Edmundbury Godfrey*; telling him, that if he would affirm it, he the said Sir *George* would find persons to swear it. But you may easily guess at the truth of this assertion by that which follows, viz. that the said Sir *George* swore Gods Wounds; whereas all persons that have the honour and happiness of his acquaintance, can attest that they never heard him swear an Oath in his life; and 'tis supposed he will speedily, or some friend for him, vindicate himself likewise against these infamous aspersions.

Then he tells us that he was put upon accusing the Queen, Duke, and E. of *Danby*, but he tells us not by whom; which is very remarkable, and is apt to make men believe that what he has said concerning them in his publick printed Narrative, and in his several examinations as well publick as private, had more probability of truth in it.

As for his protestations of the truth of what he has said, they come far short of those made by *Langborn*; and yet it has since been proved, that he, as well as the rest of the Popish Traitors that were executed for the Plot and murder, died with a lie in his mouth. And though these protestations of dying Papists are great stumbling-blocks to vulgar Protestants, yet they that are acquainted with the Doctrines of the *Romish* Church, and have read their chiefest Authors, can tell us, that for the promoting of the Catholick Cause and Interest, to be guilty of lying, perjury, murder, or any other crime whatsoever, is so far from being damnable, that it is meritorious. This you may see at large in that excellent Piece, published by Authority, entituled, *Animadversions on the five Jesuits Speeches*.

All that I shall say in reference to Dr. *Hawkins's* attestation is, That *Fitz-harris* did at several times, in the presence of Dr. *Burnes*, the Lieutenant of the *Tower*, and divers other persons of Quality, besides in several Examinations upon Oath, declare things of a quite contrary nature to those asserted in this Libel, and particularly in matters relating to the Lord *Howard*, whom he always cleared till the publication of this Libel.